THE PULSE

NEWS OF THE NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 14 JUNE, 1951

CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE OPENED

Dedication ceremonies for the newly constructed New England Deaconess Hospital's Cancer Research Institute were held on Tuesday, June fifth. The Institute, unique in that it combines under one roof cancer research, atomic research, cancer control, and cancer diagnosis, as well as out-patient department tumor clinics, is the logical development of the Deaconess Hospital's long interest in cancer problems and the care of cancer patients.

The all-day program began with dedication ceremonies at ten o'clock when Sumner T. Pike, Vice-Chairman of the United States Atomic Energy Commission, gave the principal address. Dr. Harold C. Case, President of Boston University, delivered the invocation and Ernest G. Howes, President of the Board of Trustees of the New England Deaconess Hospital, accepted the building for the hospital.

DR. SHIELDS WARREN AND MR. SUMNER T. PIKE

At the scientific session in the afternoon, the talks were given by Dr. Shields Warren, Scientific Director of the new Cancer Research Institute, and Dr. Sidney Farber, Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School at Children's Hospital and Scientific Director of the Children's Cancer Research Foundation.

Dr. Farber paid the following tribute to Dr. Warren: "It is clear that the opening of this Institute today represents only one chapter in its history. These are organizations which are great on the day of their inception. Such is the case of the Cancer Research Institute of the New England Deaconess Hospital. The staff is a notable one. They will not only forgive me but will rejoice with me if we consider briefly the one who is most responsible for this important occasion.

"Shields Warren prepared for this responsibility by an experience rich beyond description in medicine in the several divisions of science, and in his unselfish labors in behalf of his fellow man. As pathologist, teacher, physician, research worker, officer in the Navy, member of important national committees concerned with pathology, cancer, medicine and public welfare and finally as Director of one of the greatest medical and national achievements — the Division of Biology and Medicine of the Atomic Energy Commission — Dr. Warren has served always with great distinction. It was Dr. Joslin who said in 1930, in an introduction to Dr. Warren's now classic book on the Pathology of Diabetes Mellitus: 'I am thankful that this pathologist is young and can look with unbiased critical mind of youth upon the past . . .' I am thankful today that the Scientific Director of the new Institute is younger today in spirit, in outlook and in hope than when these words were written more than 20 years ago. For in his youthful outlook toward cancer, grounded firmly on a vast experience with that disorder — in this youthful eagerness in assimilating the newer knowledge and techniques which have come from younger men in the world of physics and chemistry — there is a controlled optimism for all who come within his influence that the answers to the many problems of cancer will be found. Biologist by original training, steeped in the vernacular of chemistry and physics and above all a physician — this is the man whose dreams of more than 25 years are realized in the opening of this new Institute today. In consideration of his achievements and his devotion to his country, to medicine, to science and to our civilization it may be stated that he has carved a place for himself which is unique in the world today."

Dr. Warren, who in addition to his post as Scientific Director of the new Institute, is the Pathologist of the Deaconess Hospital, Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine of the United States Atomic Energy Commission, and Professor of Pathology at the Harvard Medical School, spoke on the "Scientific Aims of the Cancer Research Institute."

The important event at the evening session was the dedication of the Elliott P. Joslin Auditorium which is a part of the new building. The Joslin Auditorium, to be used for teaching, is named in honor of Dr. Elliott P. Joslin, Physician-in-Chief Emeritus of the Deaconess Hospital and one of the world's leading

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CANCER RESEARCH STORY
(Continued)

authorities on diabetes. At these ceremonies, Dr. Warren F. Cook, Executive Director of the hospital, gave the Invocation and the main address was made by Dr. Charles H. Best, Director of the Banting-Best Department of Medical Research at the University of Toronto. It was Dr. Best and the late Sir Frederick Banting who together in 1921 first successfully extracted insulin for human use. The Banting-Best discovery made it possible for thousands of people suffering from diabetes to live to normal expectancy and control this disease by means of insulin injections. Dr. Best spoke on "Medical Research and World Health."

The activities at the Cancer Research Institute will encompass a wide range of interests including research in biological chemistry, biophysics, biostatistics, experimental pathology, hematology, radio-biology, and x-ray diffraction.

In addition to its regular staff, other groups affiliated with the Institute will be working here. The Cancer Control Unit of the Harvard School of Public Health will train the medical personnel in cancer control administration and will work closely with the Deaconess Tumor Clinic. The Harvard Cancer Commission's Laboratory of Pathology will continue its research in these new quarters and will, through its affiliation with the Massachusetts State Tumor Diagnosis Service, provide free pathologic diagnosis of cancer to those Massachusetts physicians without adequate laboratory service.

Dr. Warren F. Cook, the hospital's Executive Director, announced that the opening of the Cancer Research Institute is the completion of the first part of a $5,000,000 building program at the Deaconess Hospital. Already underway is the new Central Deaconess Building which will centralize all operating facilities, laboratories, x-ray, and kitchens; plans are contemplated to add another six stories on to this central building, making it a twelve-story structure and giving the Deaconess Hospital a total of 500 beds. A new Teaching Clinic for Diabetics, plans for which are now being developed, will round out this extensive building program.

The members of the staff of the Cancer Research Institute are:

Scientific Director
Shields Warren, M.D.

Scientific Advisory Board
Richard B. Cattell, M.D.
Sidney Farber, M.D.
A. Baird Hastings, Ph.D.

Senior Scientists
Bradley E. Copeland, M.D.
Russell F. Cowing
Olive Gates, M.D.
Samuel P. Hicks, M.D.
Margaret W. Holt, Ph.D.
Ralph W. McKee, Ph.D.
Sheldon C. Sommers, M.D.
Edna H. Tompkins, M.D.

Junior Scientists
Egilda DeAmicis, S.B.
Joshua L. Edwards, M.D.
Philip O'B. Montgomery, M.D.
Charles K. Spalding
Earle W. Williamson, B.S.

Staff of Laboratory of Pathology
Harvard Cancer Commission
Sheilds Warren, M.D.
Olive Gates, M.D.

Staff of Harvard School of Public Health
Cancer Control Administration
Leonid S. Snegireff, M.D.
Olive Lombard, B.Sc., S.M.

Chief of Tumor Clinic
Clifford C. Franseen, M.D.

DOCTORS TO HARNESS ATOMIC ENERGY IN CANCER INSTITUTE

So read the headline of the article by Frances Burnes in *The Boston Sunday Globe* on June third.

"The first building code for the Atomic Age has been evolved for the new Cancer Research Institute of the New England Deaconess Hospital.

"Described by Dr. Shields Warren, it provides for the special handling in a hospital building of byproducts of the bomb with lead screens, lead observation windows, floors of tarred felt and asphalt tile over concrete.

"It is expected to be a model for other new structures in which radioactive materials for treatment and research will be handled.

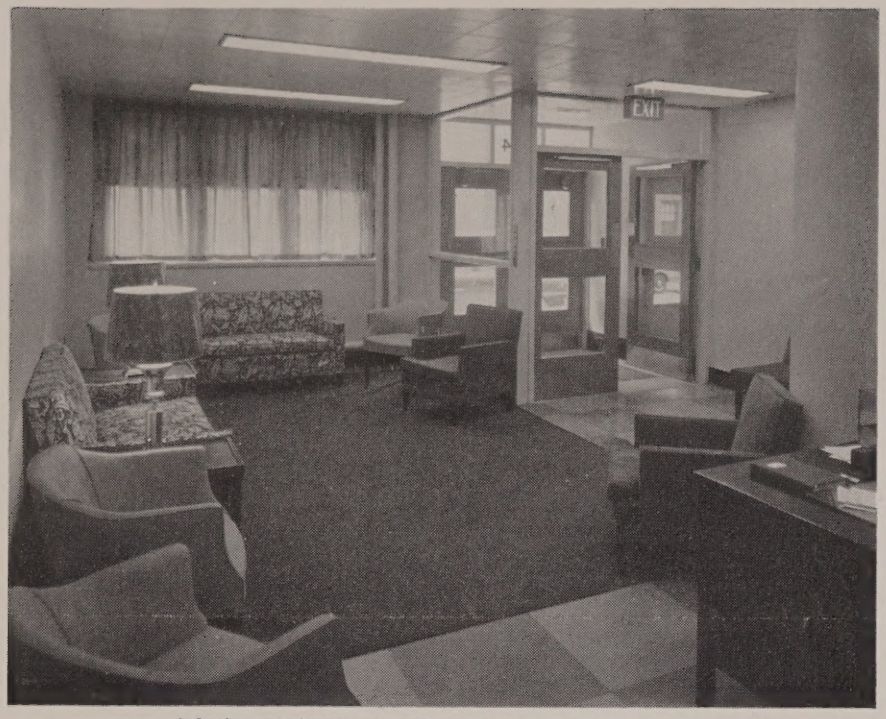
"Dr. Warren, director of the new Institute, has been director of the Division of Biology and Medicine of the Atomic Energy Commission since its founding in 1947. As close to the developing use of bomb byproducts in medicine and the results of radiation on the human body as anyone in the world, he said in an interview that 'radioactive substances have helped around the fringes, but so far not materially in the central part of treatment of cancer and allied diseases.'

"However, he explained, 'as a tool I know of no scientific advance equal to it for opening up new fields of exploration.

" 'It is only fair to say that our understanding of the basic life functions has progressed more rapidly in the last six years, since the first bomb burst, than in any period in history.

" 'This is due in large part to tools that atomic energy has provided, but of equal importance is the object lesson offered by the harnessing of atomic energy in a short time when adequate facilities, support and personnel were provided.'

"The Cancer Research Institute, just completed at a cost of $575,000, itself is a pioneer in its approach to the study of cancer. Attached to a voluntary hospital, rather than a university, it will combine outpatient tumor clinics and post-graduate medical instruction with cancer control, cancer diagnosis, atomic research and cancer research.



FOYER OF THE CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

"While the world situation once more has drawn the curtain over information on supply of radioactive materials, Oak Ridge still is acting as the distributing point for all radioactive isotopes, whether they come from bomb production or from the cyclorotrons of the universities, Dr. Warren said.

"Used chiefly at the Deaconess, Dr. Warren explained, are radioactive phosphorus, iodine and sodium. But he and his associates also are experimenting with the use of radioactive cobalt, which has a half life of 5.4 years and can be used interchangeably with or in place of radium, of which Deaconess has had the principal supply in this area.

" 'We are not throwing away our radium,' he added with a smile. 'But it could be bought at the bargain price of $100,000. Not too long ago the asking price would have been $125,000.

" 'Radioactive cobalt can be used more directly and more flexibly than radium in the treatment of deep-seated tumors.'

"Radioactive phosphorus has been used in the treatment of leukemia, excess of white blood cells and polycythemia, excess of red blood cells, and has prolonged life, though it does not cure, Dr. Warren said. Radioactive iodines are effective in certain types of thyroid cancer, and radioactive sodium is used in studies of circulation of the blood.

"Supported by the Atomic Energy Commission are projects looking to (1) additional information about the medical use of isotopes, (2) protection from radiation, (3) detailed studies on changes in radiation injury to all the cells of the body.

"Scientists in the Institute are looking for the body's natural defense against radiation injury as part of the AEC research, Dr. Warren said.

"Studies are being carried out in a series of 100 pairs of Siamese rats. Irradiating one and not the other they have been able to double the life of the animal with a lethal dose of radiation. Some substance, it is believed, that is destroyed by radiation, hastens death. When it is present in the normal Siamese twin it protects the irradatied animal.

"Three of the endocrine glands are suspected of being the protective organ — the adrenals, near the kidney ('most likely'), or the pituitary at the base of the brain, or the thyroid in the throat. So in some of the Siamese animals one gland or another is destroyed in both before radiation of one. If the animal dies at once the pointer will have been directed at the protective organ by its absence. A possible defense against radiation will have been found because the function of the gland can be stepped up artificially.

"In the Navy with the rank of Captain during the war Dr. Warren was concerned primarily with the effects of radiation. Six weeks after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed he headed a medical mission to study the effects of the first atomic bombs on a civilian population. Later when the bombs were dropped near ships at Bikini he again headed the research mission. (Only one of the animals from a 'hot' ship, the celebrated Pig 311, still is alive. The last time he saw her at Bethesda she was very fat, six years old, still sterile, though repeated efforts have been made to breed her.)

"The first hospital room under the Atomic Age building code was planned by Russell Cowing, radiation physicist, and built with funds from the Godfrey M. Hyams Fund.

"Unlike the Boston room which was made radioactive for 1500 years because someone handled radioactive substances carelessly and spilled them, the new radioactive isotope suite in the Research Institute is almost foolproof. A concrete floor is covered with two layers of tarred felt paper, and then with asphalt tile. Should any 'hot' substance be spilled the felt and asphalt layer could be stripped without the concrete being radiated. The tile is laid so that it can be rinsed by hose.

"The isotopes which give off beta rays — phosphorus, calcium, carbon, sulphur — are shipped by express from Oak Ridge, packed in cement, leadlined containers, each, in turn, sealed in a tin can, much like a 46 ounce tin of pineapple or grapefruit juice. The innermost container is a capsule of the isotope in powder form or a small bottle of liquid substance.

"After the top is taken off the tin can with a can opener and the tiny container removed with a long pair of forceps, the substance is measured for radioactivity, made up into solution and issued to members of the staff approved to use it.

"The really 'hot' materials containing the deadly gamma rays, however, cobalt, iodine, iron, sodium, are shipped in lead containers that lift out the capsules which are handled behind lead screens and are deposited in lead grooves in a concrete wall with lead slides which open both into the receiving and issuing rooms so that no one using the material for treatment or research need come into the receiving room.

GLAD TO SEE YOU!

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Cornelius J. Kiley

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Helen Z. Willand

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Robert C. Lincoln

Surgery
Alvin P. Arthur
Walter J. Gruen
Robert Van Gorder
Janet Welsh
Frederick Wilson

X-Ray
Karin E. Enebuske
Lillian Smith

DEPARTMENT NOTES

Engagements

Miss Marguerite Ruth Byers, '50 Sr., to Mr. Harland Cramer. Miss Byers is a staff nurse in Surgery and will be married on July 21st. Mr. Cramer is with the U. S. Navy and is stationed at Bethesda, Maryland, where the couple will make their future home.

Miss Jeanne T. Craig, '52 Sr., to Mr. Kenneth L. Wilson of Freeport, Maine. Miss Craig will complete her training in January 1952. Mr. Wilson, who is studying to be an electrical engineer is a junior at the University of Massachusetts. No date has been set for the wedding.

Miss Patricia Mildred McGrady, '52 Sr., to Mr. Thomas Joseph Stone of Northampton. Mr. Stone served in the Pacific area during the war and was graduated from the Smith Vocational School in Northampton.

Miss Lorraine Hudson Moran, '52 Jr., to Mr. William M. Thornton, Jr. of Dorchester. Miss Moran works in Baker and Mr. Thornton is attending Northeastern University.

Miss Glenna Wetmore, '50 Jr., to Mr. Robert E. Ellis of Oneonta, New York. Miss Wetmore is employed at the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, New Hampshire. Mr. Ellis was formerly a student at the Gordon School of Theology and is now with the 11th Airborne Division, Fort Campbell Kentucky.

Weddings

Miss Ruth Virginia Carlson, '35 Sr., to Mr. Lewis Hans Larsen on May 12th at the Parkway Community Methodist Church in Milton. Mr. and Mrs. Larsen are living at 29 Chapman Street, Canton.

Miss Barbara Ann Cullen, '49 Jr., to Sgt. Richard P. Barker on May 19th at St. Paul's Methodist Church in St. Albans, Vermont. Mrs. Barker was formerly a head nurse here and her husband is stationed in Boston. They will live at 1377 Commonwealth Avenue. Miss Corrine D. Cooper, Staff nurse, was maid of honor. Miss May N. Ekstrand and Miss Dorothy C. Wade also attended the wedding.

Miss Evelyn Ruth Danielson, '52 Sr., to Cpl. Donald Ernest Reynolds on June 4th at the North Sedgwick Baptist Church, North Sedgwick, Maine. Mrs. Reynolds will complete her course in January 1952.

Mrs. Madeline McNaughton Davignon, '27 Jr., to Mr. Theodore W. Ladd last month at the home of Rev. John W. Meisner of Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

Miss Ruth E. Harrington to Mr. Paul Cooke Wenger on May 26th at the Sacred Heart Church in Roslindale. Mrs. Wenger is a technician in the Pathological Laboratory and will continue her work.

Miss Jean Isabel Robinson, '49 Jr., to 2nd Lt. William Francis Flynn of Jamaica Plain on May 19th at Manchester, Connecticut.

Miss Dorothy Ann Roseine,, '49 Sr., to Mr. Harold Edward Burton on June 9th at Norwich, Connecticut. Mr. and Mrs. Burton will live in Boston.

Births

A son, Richard Charles, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chojnowski (Barbara Williams, formerly of Pathology) on May 3rd.

A son, Andrew Harold, to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer A. Pedersen on April 8th. Mr. Pedersen is a maintenance mechanic at the Cancer Research Institute.

A son, Carl Thomas, to Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Poole (Betty Armitage, formerly of Surgery) on May 26th.